



Indiana Department of Education
SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

College Night in Indiana



Welcome

Honored Guests:

Scott Ham, Butler University

Pamela Horne, Purdue University

Mary Ellen Anderson, Indiana University



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How to choose a college

- Large vs. Small
- Public vs. Private
- Location
- Cost
- Major
- Visit www.collegeboard.com and My College Quickstart, Naviance
- Campus Visit!!



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Campus Visits

- Contact admission office well in advance
- Inform college of special areas of interest
- Learn as much as possible about the college before the visit
- Prepare a brief resume of information about yourself
- Plan to spend a whole day. Try to sit in on a class, tour the library, talk to students in addition to the tour guide, and read the school newspaper
- Write a note of appreciation to individuals who helped you during your visit.



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Applications

- **Early Decision**
 - ED to only ONE institution
 - Apply and hear back early
 - If admitted, withdraw all other applications
 - Committed to enroll at ED college
- **Early Action**
 - Can apply to multiple institutions EA
 - Apply early, hear back early
 - No commitment
- **Rolling Admission**
 - Admission review is continuous
 - Hear back usually within 2-6 weeks
 - No commitment



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Applications

- Common Application
 - One application for multiple colleges (those who participate)
- On-line Applications
 - Read all instructions
 - Copy everything
 - Spell and grammar check
 - Press send!
- Docufide – pre-register. Ask your counselor how.



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ACT vs. SAT

ACT

Only multiple choice questions

Student decides which score to report

Maximum score is 36

No penalty for wrong answers

SAT

Some math questions and essays are not multiple choice

Maximum score is 2400 (max. of 800 per section)

Wrong answers have penalty



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Preparation for ACT/SAT

- www.number2.com (free)
- Use PSAT scores – My College Quickstart and Skills Insight (free)
- Publications, on-line and CD-Rom go to www.act.org (\$) and www.collegeboard.com (\$)
- Kaplan: www.kaplan.com (\$\$)
- Indianapolis Kaplan Center: james.Litton@kaplan.com or 571-1009 (free)
- The Princeton Review: www.review.com (\$\$)
- www.petersons.com (\$\$)
- www.maxthetest.com (\$)
- www.collegepilot.com (\$)
- Indiana On-line Academy: The Princeton Review www.indianaonlineacademy.org (\$\$)



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Essays

- Usually required piece of application for private colleges and highly selective public universities.
- Make them personal for each school!
- Know who will be reading your essay
- Have someone read prior to submission
- Spell and grammar check



Letters of Recommendation

- Usually required piece of application for private colleges and highly selective public universities.
- Ask current, junior year, academic teacher(s)
- Give those writing letters a brief resume and description of why you'd like to attend that institution
- Give teachers at least plenty of time to write the letter
- Follow up with a “thank you” note to the teacher



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Application Calendar

- Jr.: Spring semester, 2011: Take SAT and ACT
- Jr.: February – September: Make campus visits
- Sr.: September- November: Apply to colleges
- Jr.: September – register on www.fastweb.com
- Sr.: January, 2011: Complete FAFSA
- Sr.: May 1, 2011: Respond to admission offer(s)



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Financial Aid

- Complete FASFA in January
 - www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov
- www.fastweb.com
- www.finaid.org
- College Goal Sunday – February, 2011
- Refer to list of web sites for additional resources
- Don't pay to have someone find you money!



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